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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER	
JONES, DAVID	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/515,610	Applicant(s) OHTA ET AL.	
	Examiner David L Jones	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 May 2000*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-37* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-37* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *5* .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 28 May 2000 was filed after the mailing date of the application on 29 February 2000. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner. Applicant is advised that since a PTO-1449 was not included that if a patent is awarded at some date those application noted in the IDS will not be included.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: Fig. 2, item 1106. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Page 3, line 4, Rasterizer #1500. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 16, line 11, color printer "107", should be "1007".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7. Claims 1-32, 34-37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Holub U.S. Patent 6,043,909.

Regarding claim 1, Holub discloses a copy machine (printing system) including an image reading unit (fig. 3A, #13) and a image output unit (fig. 3A, #15, #16, & #20) printing out an image read by the image reading unit as a copy, said copying machine comprising:

an operation section (#18) for performing a display through which an image output apparatus is specified, when said copying machine is connected to a network to which at least to one said image output apparatus (fig. 3A, #15, #16, & #20) excluding said copying machine is connected;

pattern output means (fig. 5) for causing the image output apparatus specified through said operation section to output a predetermined test pattern(column 21, lines 48-60)(column 22, lines 11-41); and

correction data generation means (fig. 6A) for causing the image reading unit to read the predetermined pattern output by the image output apparatus specified through said operation section and generating correction data used for correcting an image output condition for said image output apparatus specified, based on a result of reading by said image reading unit, wherein data for correcting the image output condition of said image output apparatus is updated with the correction data generated by said correction data generation means (fig. 7).

Regarding claim 2, Holub discloses a printing system further comprising register means (fig. 7) for registering the data generated by said correction data generation means in said image output apparatus through the network (column 23, lines 25-34).

Regarding claim 3, Holub discloses a discloses a printing system, wherein at least one said image output apparatus performs printing out by means of electro-photographic system (column 12, lines 25-28).

Regarding claim 4, Holub discloses a printing system wherein at least one said image output apparatus performs printing out by means of ink jet system (column 12, lines 25-28).

Regarding claim 5, Holub discloses a printing system wherein the test pattern has a plurality of patterns each of which consists of a plurality of units for reading (column 21, lines 48-60)(column 22, lines 11-41), each unit differing in the image output condition, and units having the same image output condition between the plurality of patterns have different relative position in the output test pattern.

Regarding claim 6, Holub discloses an image processing system comprising:

image reading means for reading an image (fig. 3A, #13);

display means (fig. 3A, #18) for performing a display for specifying image output apparatus connected to a network;

input means (fig. 3A, #18) for executing input for specifying the image output apparatus displayed by said display means;

and calibration means (fig. 3A, #13 & #14) for controlling an image output condition for the image output apparatus specified by the input through said input means, based on read data read by said image reading means (fig. 7).

Regarding claim 7, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means causes the image output apparatus specified by the input through said input means to output a predetermined test pattern and controls the image output condition based on read data read by said image reading means (column 21, lines 48-60)(column 22, lines 11-41).

Regarding claim 8, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein a plurality of said image output apparatus are connected to the network and each of the plurality of image output apparatus can be specified through said input means (column 11, lines 62-67, column 12, lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 9, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means causes the plurality of image output apparatus to output the respective test patterns at the same time. As stated by Holub in column 21, lines 2-5, that in order to represent one device on another (to proof) it is necessary to have an accurate model of the color reproduction of both devices, therefore it would be inherent that to do so that both printers would be able to print out calibration patterns simultaneously.

Regarding claim 10, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means causes the plurality of image output apparatus to output the test pattern and respective identification information for identifying the image output apparatus outputting said test pattern, together (column 23, lines 25-41). And in column 22, lines 29-41, Holub states that hard copy proofers may write an identifying number and/or bar code for the device and for the specific proof (including date and time) on the proof. Further, it would be inherent that all the devices can be utilized to print out a test pattern simultaneously as Holub teaches that multiple users can run the program simultaneously (column 40, lines 41-65).

Regarding claim 11, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means specifies the image output apparatus according to the identification information and controls the image output condition of the image output apparatus specified. In column 22, lines 42-51, a running press may be calibrated by analysis of live imagery digitized an imagical #14 provided 1) that the images analyzed sample the gamut of the device adequately and 2) that the effects of page adjacency within a signature on color reproduction can be accounted for (for example by reference to stored historical data at the node).

Regarding claim 12, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means causes said image reading means to read respective test patterns output by the plurality of image output apparatus at one time and specifies respective image output apparatus according to the identification information read together with the test pattern. In column 22, lines 42-51, a running press may be calibrated by analysis of live imagery digitized an imagical #14 provided 1) that the images analyzed sample the gamut of the device adequately and 2) that the effects of page adjacency within a signature on color reproduction can be accounted for (for

example by reference to stored historical data at the node). It would be inherent that since the running press is able to read the digitized data and that the identification information that the information would be read one at a time.

Regarding claim13, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein said identification information includes symbol series as the information, in column 23, lines 29-41, Holub states that hard copy proofers may write an identifying number and/or bar code for the device and for the specific proof (including date and time) on the proof.

Regarding claim 14, the information is analogous to claim 13.

Regarding claim 15, Holub discloses an image processing system, wherein said identification information includes a network address of the image output apparatus connected to the network, as the information. It is noted although it is not explicitly disclosed it is implied that with the ability of sending information (column 13, lines 20-53) between one node or site and another that to when as further disclosed in column 23, lines 29-41, that the hard copy proofers may write an identifying number and/or bar code for the device and for the specific proof (including date and time) on the proof that it would be inherent for the network address be included.

Regarding claim 16, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein the test pattern has a plurality of patterns each of which consists of a plurality of units for reading, each unit differing in the image output condition, and units having the same image output condition between the plurality of patterns have different relative position in the output test pattern (column 21, lines 48-60)(column 22, lines 11-41).

Regarding claim17, Holub discloses an image processing system comprising:

image reading means (fig. 3A, #13 & #14) for reading an image; control means (fig. 3A, #18) for controlling an operation of each of a plurality of image output apparatuses connected to a network;

specifying means (fig. 3A, #18) for specifying at least one of the image output apparatus from the plurality of image output apparatuses;

and calibration means (fig. 3A, #13 & #14) for controlling an image output condition for the image output apparatus specified by said specifying means, based on read data read by said image reading means (fig. 7).

Regarding claim18, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein said specifying means includes search means for searching the plurality of image output apparatuses, display means for displaying an identification information for identifying the image output apparatus searched by said search means in a list formation and operation means for selecting one of the image output apparatus from the list displayed by display means. As seen in fig. 21B, for network #224, the user is able to search through the different displayed devices to check all criteria and to modify as needed (column 44, lines 53-67).

Regarding claim19, Holub discloses an image processing system wherein said control means controls the plurality of image output apparatuses to output respective predetermined test patterns at the same time, said specifying means specifies a relation between the test pattern output and the image output apparatus outputting said test pattern, and said calibration means controls the respective image output conditions of the image output apparatuses, based on read data of the test pattern, in the relation specified, read by said image reading means. As stated by Holub in column 21, lines 2-5, that in order to represent one device on another (to proof) it is

necessary to have an accurate model of the color reproduction of both devices, therefore it would be inherent that to do so that both printers would be able to print out calibration patterns simultaneously.

Regarding claim 20, Holub discloses an image processing method of performing image processing (fig. 2) using image reading means, comprising the steps of:

performing a display (fig. 3A, #18) for specifying an image output apparatus (fig. 3A, #20 & #15) connected to a network;

and performing calibration (SOM, fig. 3A, #13) for controlling an image output condition of the image output apparatus specified through the display.

Regarding claim 21, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein said step for calibration causes the image output apparatus specified by the input through said step for display to output a predetermined test pattern and controls the image output condition based on read data read by the image reading means. **Claim 21 is analogous to claim 7.**

Regarding claim 22, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein a plurality of said image output apparatus are connected to the network and each of the plurality of image to output apparatus can be specified through said step for display. **Claim 22 is analogous to claim 8.**

Regarding claim 23, Holub discloses an image processing method, wherein said step for calibration causes the plurality of image output apparatus to output the respective test patterns at the same time. **Claim 23 is analogous to claim 9.**

Regarding claim 24, Holub discloses an image processing method, wherein said step for calibration causes the plurality of image output apparatus to output the test pattern and respective

identification information for identifying the image output apparatus outputting said test pattern, together. **Claim 24 is analogous to claim 10.**

Regarding claim 25, Holub discloses an image processing method, wherein said step for calibration specifies the image output apparatus according to the identification information and controls the image output condition of the image output apparatus specified. **Claim 25 is analogous to claim 11.**

Regarding claim 26, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein said step for calibration causes the image reading means to read respective test patterns output by the plurality of image output apparatus at one time and specifies respective image output apparatus according to the identification information read together with the test pattern. **Claim 26 is analogous to claim 12.**

Regarding claim 27, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein said identification information includes symbol series as the information. **Claim 27 is analogous to claim 13.**

Regarding claim 28, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein said identification information includes a barcode as the information. **Claim 28 is analogous to claim 14.**

Regarding claim 29, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein said identification information includes a network address or a network identification code, of the image output apparatus connected to the network, as the information. **Claim 29 is analogous to claim 15.**

Regarding claim 30, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein the test pattern has a plurality of patterns each of which consists of a plurality of units for reading, each unit differing in the image output condition, and units having the same image output condition between the plurality of patterns have different relative position in the output test pattern. **Claim 30 is analogous to claim 16.**

Regarding claim 31, Holub discloses an image processing method of performing image processing using image reading means, comprising:

a step for controlling an operation of each of a to plurality of image output apparatuses connected to a network (fig.3A, #18)(column 12, lines 16-41);

a step for specifying at least one of the image output apparatus from the plurality of image output apparatuses (column 12, lines 16-41)(fig.21B);

and a step for controlling an image output condition for the image output apparatus specified by said specifying means, based on read data read by said image reading means (column 11, lines 62-67)(column 12, lines 1-41).

Regarding claim 33, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein said step for controlling controls the plurality of image output apparatuses to output respective predetermined test patterns at the same time (column 23, lines 25-41), said step for specifying specifies a relation between the test pattern output and the image output apparatus outputting said test pattern, and said step for calibration controls the respective image output conditions of the image output apparatuses, based on read data of the test pattern, in the relation specified, read by said image reading means. Further, it would be inherent that all the devices can be utilized to print out

a test pattern simultaneously as Holub teaches that multiple users can run the program simultaneously (column 40, lines 41-65).

Regarding claim 34, Holub discloses an image processing system for performing image processing using image reading means, comprising:

operation means (fig. 3A, #18) for performing a display for specifying an image output apparatus when said image processing apparatus is connected to a network to which said image output apparatus is connected;

and calibration means (fig. 3A, #13 & #14) for controlling an image output condition of the image output apparatus specified through said operation means, based on read data read by the image reading means.

Regarding claim 35, Holub discloses an image processing system for performing image processing using image reading means, comprising:

control means (fig. 3A, #18) for controlling an operation of each of a plurality of image output apparatuses when said image processing apparatus is connected to a network to which said plurality of image output apparatuses are connected;

specifying means (column 12, lines 16-41)(fig. 21B) for specifying at least one of the image output apparatus from the plurality of image output apparatus;

and calibration means (fig. 3A, #13 & #14) for controlling an image output condition of the image output apparatus specified by said specifying means, based on read data read by the image reading means.

Regarding claim 36, Holub discloses an image processing system with memory medium for storing a program readable by an information processing apparatus (fig. 3A, #18 & #19), the

program comprising an image process of performing image processing for read data read by image reading means, said image process including the steps of:

performing a display for specifying an image output apparatus connected to a network (column 12, lines 42-52);

and performing calibration for controlling an image output condition of the image output apparatus specified through the display (column 13, lines 20-53).

Regarding claim 37, Holub discloses an image processing system with a memory medium for storing a program readable by an information processing apparatus, the program comprising:

an image process of performing image processing for read data read by image reading means, said image process including: a step for controlling an operation of each of a plurality of image output apparatuses connected to a network;

a step for specifying at least one of the image output apparatus from the plurality of image output apparatuses (column 11, lines 62-67)(column 12, lines 1-41);

and a step for controlling an image output condition for the image output apparatus specified by said specifying means, based on read data read by said image reading means (column 22, lines 11-41).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 16, 17, 20-25, 30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zuber, U.S. Patent 6,035,103.

Regarding claim 1, Zuber discloses a copy machine (printing system, fig. 1) including an image-reading unit (fig. 28, #632) and an image output unit (fig. 1, #16) printing out an image read by the image reading unit as a copy, said copying machine comprising:

an operational section (fig. 1, #10) for performing a display through which an image output apparatus is specified (column 31, lines 40-48), when said copying machine is connected to a network to which at least one said image output apparatus (fig. 1, #16) excluding said copying machine is connected;

pattern output means (fig. 28, #630) for causing the image output apparatus specified through said operation section to output a predetermined test pattern (fig. 28a & fig. 29); and

correction data generation means (fig. 28, #632-#640) for causing the image reading unit (fig. 28, #632) to read (column 13, lines 13-22), (as disclosed it is inherent that the colorimeter is performing the same function and in column 1, line 32-33, Zuber states that a CCD device could be utilized in this application in the form of a CCD scanner as well as the colorimeter) the predetermined pattern output (fig. 28a & fig. 29) by the image output apparatus specified through said operation section and generating correction data used for correcting an image output condition for said image output apparatus specified, based on a result of reading by said image reading unit, wherein data for correcting the image output condition of said image output

apparatus is updated with the correction data generated by said correction data generation means (column 31, lines 1-64).

Regarding claim 2, Zuber discloses a printing system that further comprising a register means (fig. 28, #640, fig. 30, #662) for registering the data generated by said correction data generation means in said image output apparatus through the network. As disclosed by Zuber, it would be inherent that when the mapping bit values are downloaded to the print adapters and that the information is stored similar to what is disclosed in fig. 30, #662, which is performing the same function as the instant application register means.

Regarding claim 5, Zuber discloses a printing system wherein the test pattern (fig. 28a) has a plurality of patterns each of which consists of a plurality of units for reading, each unit differing in the image output condition, and units having the same image output condition between the plurality of patterns have different relative position in the output test pattern (column 31, lines 6-13).

Regarding claim 6, Zuber discloses an image processing system comprising: image reading means (fig. 28, #632) for reading an image; display means (fig. 1, #10) for performing a display for specifying image output apparatus connected to a network; input means (fig. 1, #10) for executing input for specifying the image output apparatus displayed by said display means; and calibration means (fig. 28, #632-640) for controlling an image output condition for the image output apparatus specified by the input through said input means, based on read data read by said image reading means.

Regarding claim 7, Zuber discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means causes the image output apparatus specified by the input through said input means to

output a predetermined test pattern and controls the image output condition based on read data read by said image reading means (fig. 28, #632-#640).

Regarding claim 8, Zuber discloses an image processing system wherein a plurality of said image output apparatus (fig. 1, #16) are connected to the network and each of the plurality of image output apparatus can be specified through said input means (column 31, lines 40-48).

Regarding claim 9, Zuber discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means causes the plurality of image output apparatus to output the respective test patterns at the same time (column 44, lines 18-28).

Regarding claim 10, Zuber discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means causes the plurality of image output apparatus to output the test pattern and respective identification information for identifying the image output apparatus outputting said test pattern, together (column 35, lines 1-55). It would be inherent as seen in figure 32, although it is not explicitly disclosed, that after printer engines #651 print the patterns and then sent to the colorimeter #655 that there would have to be some type of identification information for each print engine.

Regarding claim 11, Zuber discloses an image processing system wherein said calibration means specifies the image output apparatus according to the identification information and controls the image output condition of the image output apparatus specified (column 35, lines 1-55).

Regarding claim 16, Zuber discloses an image processing system wherein the test pattern has a plurality of patterns each of which consists of a plurality of units for reading, each unit differing in the image output condition, and units having the same image output condition

between the plurality of patterns have different relative position in the output test pattern (fig. 28a & 29)(column 31, lines 6-13).

Regarding claim 17, Zuber discloses an image processing system comprising: image reading (fig. 28, #632) means for reading an image; control means (fig. 1, #10) for controlling an operation of each of a plurality of image output apparatuses (fig. 1, #16) connected to a network; specifying means (image task manager, fig. 1, #26)(column 5, lines 58-65) for specifying at least one of the image output apparatus from the plurality of image output apparatuses; and calibration means (fig. 28, #634-#640) for controlling an image output condition for the image output apparatus specified by said specifying means, based on read data read by said image reading means.

Regarding claim 20, Zuber discloses an image processing method of performing image processing (fig. 1) using image reading means (fig. 28, #632), comprising the steps of:

performing a display (fig. 1, #10) for specifying an image output apparatus (fig. 1, #16) connected to a network;

and performing calibration (fig. 28, #634-#640) for controlling an image output condition of the image output apparatus specified through the display.

Regarding claim 21, Zuber discloses an image processing method wherein said step for calibration causes the image output apparatus specified by the input through said step for display to output a predetermined test pattern and controls the image output condition based on read data read by the image reading means. **Claim 21 is analogous to claim 7.**

Regarding claim 22, Zuber discloses an image processing method wherein a plurality of said image output apparatus are connected to the network and each of the plurality of image to

output apparatus can be specified through said step for display. **Claim 22 is analogous to claim 8.**

Regarding claim 23, Zuber discloses an image processing method, wherein said step for calibration causes the plurality of image output apparatus to output the respective test patterns at the same time. **Claim 23 is analogous to claim 9.**

Regarding claim 24, Zuber discloses an image processing method, wherein said step for calibration causes the plurality of image output apparatus to output the test pattern and respective identification information for identifying the image output apparatus outputting said test pattern, together. **Claim 24 is analogous to claim 10.**

Regarding claim 25, Zuber discloses an image processing method, wherein said step for calibration specifies the image output apparatus according to the identification information and controls the image output condition of the image output apparatus specified. **Claim 25 is analogous to claim 11.**

Regarding claim 30, Zuber discloses an image processing method wherein the test pattern has a plurality of patterns each of which consists of a plurality of units for reading, each unit differing in the image output condition, and units having the same image output condition between the plurality of patterns have different relative position in the output test pattern. **Claim 30 is analogous to claim 16.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holub U.S. Patent.

Regarding claim 32, Holub discloses an image processing method wherein said step for specifying includes, a display step for displaying an identification information for identifying the image output apparatus and an operation step for selecting one of the image output apparatus from the list displayed by said display step. Holub does not explicitly disclose the ability to search the network, but shows a profile of the entire network (fig. 21B) and discloses a list of all hierarchical devices by grouping (#234), and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the ability to search for a particular device would be included in the Huber network, thereby one of ordinary skill would be motivated that to be able to search the system would further increase productivity. And as taught by Holub (column 44, lines 3-6), that the user-interface has reusable software components that can be configured by users in a point and click interface to suit their workflow using established visual programming techniques.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ikeda et al. U.S. Patent 6,172,771 teaches a system which utilizes plural image forming apparatus, equalizes gradation characteristics of images commonly output from such plural image forming apparatus. When the system includes three color copying apparatus, at first

a test pattern image based on data from a pattern generator is output from the color copying apparatus. Hsu et al. U.S. Patent 6,417,938 teaches a color image scanning method of a color image scanner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David L Jones whose telephone number is (703) 305-4675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (7:00am - 3:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

David L. Jones

EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER